

THE POLICE CORPS WEEKLY

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Recruit Profile

Shelley Kastern



Sponsoring Agency:
Onalaska Police Department
Age: 22
Hometown: Superior
College: UW-Eau Claire
Major: Criminal Justice
Hobbies/Interests: Running,
numerous sports & outdoor
activities, reading, camping,
playing with dogs, spending
time with family and
friends.



CONSTITUTIONAL LAW TRAINING BY: RECRUIT LANGE

The class continued their constitutional law training in week 6. Our instructor, Ms. Grode, covered the topics of the structure of the criminal justice system and laws of arrest.

In discussing the structure of the criminal justice system, Ms. Grode covered sources of law, the Bill of Rights and legal terminology. We learned the different burdens of proof for the various levels of police contacts. Next, we covered federal and state court structures and the purpose and function of each structure. Finally, we studied how misdemeanors and felonies are brought to charges and how they move through the corresponding courts.

The next topic covered in constitutional law was laws of arrest. We learned what probable cause is and what sources are used



Recruits Salzmann (left) and Hamill (right) arrest their instructor, Ms. Grode, during a scenario.

to establish it. Next, the class was instructed on when and how to arrest and also when to use force in making an arrest.

The class was given the opportunity to apply what they had learned through several role-playing scenarios set up by Ms. Grode. Each scenario involved a complaint that officers needed to respond to. The recruits that were not

playing officers for the particular scenarios watched and critiqued their classmates as they dealt with the incident that was presented to them. The scenarios were a great way for the recruits to apply the laws of arrest to real life situations and a great learning tool for the entire class.

CHAPTER 51: MENTAL SUBJECT SCENARIO BY: RECRUIT SALZMANN

On Sunday night the recruits were able to put their knowledge to the test and show the instructors what they are all made of through the first of many scenarios. These are not the typical scenarios, which we commonly call role-plays; these are as “real life” as possible and are very intense.

Each recruit was very nervous going into the beginning of the night, and rightfully so. Our scenario was to deal with an emo-



Recruits Kastern (left) and Lecher in an earlier role-play.

tionally disturbed person, whom we commonly call a Chapter 51, based on Chapter 51 in the state statute, which deals with emotionally disturbed persons. We all studied hard, and then

put our training to the test. It was very difficult, and I must say that the acting was exceptional.

This scenario was very effective and it showed all of the recruits some major areas that they all need to work on. The instructors did a great job pointing out the areas that we need to work on, and we all thank everyone for all of the efforts put into our first scenario. It is not easy to coordinate these things, and our instructors did a great job.

AGENCY PROFILE: ONALASKA, WISCONSIN BY: RECRUIT KASTERN

The police department in Onalaska, WI is made up of 28 sworn officers, 16 of whom work patrol. Chief Randy Williams leads the department, which serves a city with a population of almost 16,000 people. The department runs bike patrols, a school liaison program, the D.A.R.E program, a Citizens' Police Academy, and a Child Identification Program. Additionally, the department is active in numerous fundraising activities, with a strong involvement specifically with Special Olympics.

The department

bases their mission around the idea of a working partnership between the agency and the community. Efforts are made to improve the



quality of life within Onalaska by involving the citizens with positive policing efforts and identifying the issues and concerns together. These law enforce-

ment officers are committed to serving the citizens in a professional manner and have compassion in everything they do.

The city itself is located in a beautiful area and neighbors LaCrosse, WI. The east side of the city is trimmed with bluffs while the scenic Mississippi River flows on the west. Onalaska is the fastest growing city in the area, with a steady expansion of retail businesses. As the population continues to grow, the department will maintain their commitment to serving the citizens with teamwork and excellence.

WI SS 51.001(13)(a)

“Mental Illness” means mental disease to such extent that a person so afflicted requires care and treatment for his or her own welfare, or the welfare of others, or of the community.

SENSITIVE CRIMES AND THEIR VICTIMS BY: RECRUIT BOHREN

On Thursday and Friday of Week 6, Sgt. Anibas of the Eau Claire Police Department instructed a course on Sensitive Crimes, which includes child abuse and sexual assault. Recruits learned the history of child abuse and the obligated legal duties of law enforcement officers.

Child abuse and sexual assault places young children in high-risk situations and endangers their safety. Abuse can have lasting effects on a child, both psychologically and behaviorally. It is important that law enforcement officers

recognize the warning signs of abuse, conduct proper investigations, and report any suspected abuse or neglect. Children have rights that need to be protected, which is up to adults; the voice of children.

During the lesson on sexual assault, Sgt. Anibas informed the class that a mere 16% of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement officials. Sexual assault can be both embarrassing and scary to the victim. Often, the perpetrator is someone known by or close to the victim. It is important

to recognize that victims of sexual assault are entitled to certain rights.

Key factors when investigating a sexual assault include conducting a comprehensive interview with the victim. Sgt. Anibas stressed the importance of not blaming the victim. Sensitive crimes present a very difficult and challenging role to law enforcement officials, which require time and careful investigation. Protection of the victims of sexual assault and child abuse need to be taken seriously.

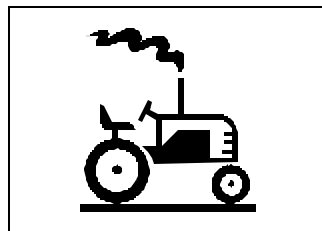
Only 16% of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement.

TRAFFIC LAW: VEHICLE REGISTRATION BY: RECRUIT LECHER

Vehicle Registration was the focus of the recruits Traffic Law class during week six. Sgt. DeFrang discussed the chapters of Wisconsin Statute that cover vehicle definition and vehicle registration. This area may sound like a simple area of study, but the recruits realized early in the evening just how complex and confusing these statutes are. Many good questions were asked throughout the night to clarify some of the legal definitions and weight classes of

vehicles.

The recruits also had an hour-long exercise on identifying vehicles from pictures in a PowerPoint presentation. Along with the definitions of the vehicles, recruits had to identify the type of registration that



was required for the vehicle, if any, the registration fee, and how many years the registration was valid for. Needless to say, this was a challenging exercise, especially after the recruits were instructed that they could not use their vehicle credential guide, but had to use the state statute book instead.

A great deal of work and effort went into learning all of the registration information and the recruits will use all of it in their future training and careers.